

HOWNIKAN

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What's inside

1

Understanding consent

2

Color Guard continues long tradition

4

Veterans Report

5

Language update

6

Art dedicated to Potawatomi Trail of Death

8

Wamego family history

10

Hill says service dogs can save veterans' lives

12

Diedrick travels Trail of Death by bike

14

Department of Education annual report

16

Potawatomi Gathering photos

20

From the executives

22

From the legislature

31

Walking On



Understanding consent

By Kayla Woody,
CPN House of Hope Prevention Specialist

Everyone has the right to make their own choices about their bodies, yet many individuals lack knowledge about consent. Consent is about more than sex. It's about showing respect for your partner and their emotional and physical boundaries, and it's a fundamental part of healthy relationships.

While the definition of consent may vary depending on who you ask or where you are, the general idea is the same. Consent is when someone understands what they're being asked to do and gives their permission clearly and freely, without feeling pressured or forced. This can be agreeing to do something or allowing for something to happen. You can consent to a hug, a conversation, a text, a kiss and more.

When educating youth on the topic, Planned Parenthood has developed a creative way to remember the idea of consent.



F – Freely Given: Consent is a choice that someone makes without pressure, manipulation, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

R – Reversible: Anyone can change their mind about what they are comfortable with at any time. Even if they've done it before, and even if it's in the middle of an action.

I – Informed: Someone can only consent to something if they have all the details. If things have changed after consent was given, then there is no longer full consent.

E – Enthusiastic: When it comes to consent, both individuals should only say "Yes" to something that they want to do. You should never feel pressured to do something just because it's expected of you. That is not consent.

S – Specific: Saying yes to one thing does not mean that the person is saying yes to other things.

However, when it comes to sexual interactions, some individuals cannot legally provide consent of any kind. These include:

- Minors under the legal age of consent
- Intoxicated or inebriated individuals
- Anyone asleep or mentally/physically incapacitated
- Individuals under power dynamics or perceived authority
- Anyone under duress, threat, coercion or force

Laws around consent are very different across the nation. In the State of Oklahoma, the legal age of consent was recently raised from 16 to 18 years of age.

This means that legally, an individual under 18 years of age, in the State of Oklahoma, cannot provide consent in sexual interactions with someone over 18 years of age. The exception to this law states that if the individual is 16 years of age, they can consent to sexual interactions with an individual no more than four years older, as long as the older individual is not of perceived authority or dynamic power.

Consent doesn't have to be complicated. Although conversations about consent may be

awkward, they're necessary. This means communicating every step of the way. Don't just assume someone is comfortable with your actions. Do not just listen for a "Yes." Consent is communicated verbally and through physical body language. Start by asking!

If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking and would like more information, please contact the House of Hope at 405-275-3176 or visit us online at facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope. 🔥



Color Guard continues long tradition

During each Family Reunion Festival, a special group of Tribal members proudly leads the Grand Entry procession during the powwow.

The members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Color Guard carry the traditional eagle feather staff and the flags of the Tribe, country and branches of the U.S. military.

The Color Guard draws its members from the CPN Veterans Organization. The Veterans Organization was formed on June 9, 2009, in Shawnee, Oklahoma. All enrolled CPN veterans are eligible to join.

The Color Guard represents the tradition of Potawatomi warriors who protected their communities. The members of the guard know that Native Americans volunteer for the armed services more than any other group.

"We've always had warriors who protected their lands, their villages," Veterans Organization Treasurer David Barrett said. "We've traditionally been warriors from day one. It's the sense of belonging to our land and our society."

Barrett said they always welcome new members who would like to participate. There is no fee to join, and even CPN citizens outside of Oklahoma have joined, he said.

Rich symbolism

The Color Guard uniform is rich with symbolism, Barrett said.

A blue and red vest is worn with the red half over the heart. A maple leaf symbolizes the Potawatomi's ancestral Woodlands home. Vests can also include patches to represent the branches of the military and other honors. A bolo tie and bandolier with a tobacco pouch is added.

Members also wear a ribbon shirt with the medicine wheel colors of red, yellow, black and white. These colors represent the four directions. Blue is added to complete the color scheme of the U.S. flag.

The uniform's design was first proposed by Michael Kennedy and debuted during Grand Entry on June 20,

2007, during the powwow. Barrett said Nathan McKay finalized the design and Peggy Kinder sewed the first vests.

During a military funeral service, a black ribbon shirt with gold ascots and a beret are added to the ensemble, Barrett said.

Community presence

In addition to their role during the Family Reunion Festival, the Color Guard has become a recognizable presence in the community by participating in many local events.

“My favorite part of community events is interacting with the people at the parade, especially young kids and their parents,” Barrett said. “When they see the American flag and put their hand over their heart...that is why we do what we do.”

In the last 15 years, they have been present at more than 250 events across the state. Some of the events include the Oklahoma 4-H Championship for precision air rifles, American Legion-Rubin Rivers, Rolling Thunder Organization, Tecumseh Title VII Native American Youth Program, Tecumseh Frontier Days parade, Wewoka Sorghum Day parade, Senior Day at the Oklahoma Capitol, Department of Human Services Senior Day, the Oklahoma State University Powwow in Stillwater, Tecumseh High School Veterans Day, Intertribal Emergency Management Conference, Guthrie Land Run Day and many others.

Barrett said the group usually attends 20 to 30 events annually where they bring in five flags or all 11 flags.

Honoring the flag

Among their most cherished activities is honoring the U.S. flag, a symbol each member holds dear, Barrett said.

“For many it symbolizes respect, honor and freedom. For others, the flag represents reflection, courage and sorrow,” he said.

The group performs the retirement of worn or damaged flags. When a flag has become tattered or frayed, it cannot simply be thrown away, Barrett said.

After the flags are inspected and deemed worthy of their service, they are respectfully burned during a ceremony.

The group also visits local schools and explains the significance and history of the flag. While many children learn the basic facts about the U.S. flag, the Color Guard presents a more detailed history, he said.

They also share the flag folding ceremony, in which a series of 13 folds are performed, each with words or phrases to honor the flag and its significance. A secular script can be used, but a Christian script is typical for most funerals.

At a veteran’s funeral, a folded flag is presented to the veteran’s family to honor the memory and service of the deceased. These flags are later displayed in



the home by the loved ones, continuing the tradition of honoring the flag and service to the country.

Pride and fellowship

The Color Guard’s visibility isn’t limited to local events. Barrett and other members look forward to attending the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations, hosted each summer by one of the nine tribes of Potawatomi.

“When you see all the eagle staffs, the American flags, the tribal flags come in, your heart just swells. It is the highlight of my year,” he said. “There’s a pride that when you put on that uniform, you represent the Citizen Potawatomi.”

Barrett invites any interested CPN veteran to join. For more information, contact Barrett at dbarrett@potawatomi.org or 405-275-3121. ♡

Veterans Report

Bozho (Hello),

With all the CPN Veterans Organizations Color Guard events we perform in schools, special events and parades, one thing we notice is the number of people who attend these functions (old and young) who do not salute or stand when the flag is presented. I prefer to believe that is because they have not been taught or have forgotten how to show respect for our nation's flag. I am going to try to inform you about proper U.S. flag etiquette.

The U.S. flag can be flown daily from sunrise to sunset, unless it is being displayed under a light at night. You can use a solar spotlight, which I use for my flag, or any means you may have.

When the flag is being raised or lowered, stand and salute, either with your right hand over your heart or with a military hand salute if you are a veteran. You can use the hand salute whether you are wearing a hat or not.

When you are watching a parade and the flag is carried by, stand and salute as it passes. If the flag is brought in at a special function or assembly, you should stand and stand again when it is taken out.

When the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, stand and salute by holding your right hand over your heart or a veteran giving a hand salute (with or without wearing a hat).

Another pet peeve of mine is seeing a ragged or dirty flag flying high where everyone can see. When you see a flag in that condition, let the owner know it is dishonoring our country and what it stands for. There is a proper way to retire an American flag. Anyone can "retire" an American flag. You burn the flag and bury its ashes on the east side of a tree.

Every year at CPN's Family Reunion Festival, the CPN Veterans Organization has a U.S. flag retirement ceremony, and everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

Flag retirement ceremony

We are gathered here to retire these flags that have been deemed no longer serviceable. It is proclaimed that each of these flags has served well.

These flags have inspired those who desired the taste of freedom and have represented hope to those oppressed by tyranny and terror. These flags have welcomed any and all in the name of liberty.

These flags serve as constant reminders to all of us that we live in a country where our freedom has been deeply purchased by blood, sweat, tears and the ultimate sacrifice. We must not forsake what those in service to this flag, and their families, have forfeited.



RECRUIT, EXIT THE TUNNEL "BEFORE"
YOU STAND UP!

Please join me to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

I will now inspect these flags.

I have inspected these flags and deem them no longer serviceable. Proceed with the retirement.

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our ceremony. Thank you for your participation and may God bless America.

Migwetch, (Thank you),

Next month's report will include the folding of the flag.

August's CPN Veterans Organization's monthly meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday, the 26, at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the CPN Cultural Heritage Center's Veterans Memorial Hall. We hope to see all CPN veterans and their families there.

Daryl Talbot, Commander, 405-275-1054

Daniel Castaneda,
Vice Commander/Event Contact, 209-207-2317

David Barrett, Treasurer, 405-613-7313

Bill Wano, Secretary, 405-670-1200 ♡



Language update

By Justin Neely, CPN Language Department Director

We are wrapping up one of our busiest times of the year. We had 250 people play bingo with us at Festival, which was an awesome turnout! We also had a good number play dice and bowl on Saturday and for our adult and kids classes. We got a chance to talk about our various tools we have for learning the language: learning.potawatomi.org, also education.transparent.com/bodwewadmimwen for our 7,000 languages course, and our online dictionary at potawatomidictionary.com.

As I write this, we are in the last week of our eight-week master apprentice summer language course. This allows folks to work on the language for eight hours a day, 40 hours a week. By the end, they will have around 320 hours working on the language. The time commitment is big, but we have had several folks join us for two to four weeks and several more for the entire eight weeks. We have had both kids and adults join us. This is the final year of our Endangered Language Fund grant. We plan on continuing next year with a restructured version. Instead of eight weeks, which is challenging for folks to be away from home, we will have a two- to three-week beginner track and a two- to three-week intermediate/advanced track.

Ngom ngi-bakwanabokemen (Today we made sumac drink). The original Native lemonade was from staghorn sumac. We have a variation of that down here in Oklahoma (not to be confused with poison sumac). The berries get bright red when ready, and the dust on the berries is used for making the drink. Long ago, settlers made this drink because lemons and limes were expensive

and rare. We learn a little something different about this each time we prepare it. First, don't wash the dust off the berries — that's what makes it sweet. Soak them in hot water for 24-48 hours. The longer you soak them, the stronger the drink. You can also add maple syrup to sweeten it. Don't harvest berries after rain. Try to wait at least three days after a rain before you harvest. Some also say to dry the berries before soaking.

We also made sugar cakes. The sugar that is made from maple syrup is quite delightful. It never really occurred to me until a couple of years ago that you could cook this down on your stove. You just take 100% maple syrup and bring it to a boil, then keep whisking it until it starts to harden. If you want to put it into little molds, make sure you do that before it hardens in your dish. It hardens pretty quickly after it's removed from heat.

Right after we wrap up, we have about two weeks to prepare for the annual Potawatomi Gathering/Language Conference. I have had the honor of presenting for the last 23 years. This year, both of my coworkers in the language department will also be presenting.

Then it will be time to get ready for upcoming high school classes. Last year, Shawnee, North Rock Creek and Tecumseh high schools participated in our online, self-paced course. In the near future, we hope to announce a new, eight to 10-week beginner course starting in the fall.

Our summer immersion students have shown such strong dedication to learning the language that we are going to continue having an all-day immersion class every Friday into the foreseeable future. In the fall, Shelly will also be starting a new, in-person beginner series for those who prefer in-person instruction. 🔥



Art dedicated to Potawatomi Trail of Death

Following a two-year collaboration, a Kansas public art project was dedicated to the remembrance of the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

Officials from CPN joined leaders from the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department to unveil Fire Keepers Circle on July 19 in Olathe, Kansas.

The sculpture is located near where the Potawatomi Trail of Death crossed Kansas. Artist Aaron Squadroni spoke about the inspiration behind the design. Squadroni's creative partner, artist Leah Yellowbird (First Nations Algonquin-Métis and Anishinaabe), also worked on Fire Keepers Circle. Yellowbird walked on in April 2025, but Squadroni said her vibrant personality and warm spirit live on through her work.

Representing CPN were Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw. CPN musician and songwriter Elexa Dawson performed "The Ones We Left Behind," a song she had written specially for the occasion.

"I couldn't help but imagine what it was like for the people that were here back then. What it was like to walk across this ground, when it wasn't cleared and there weren't roads. It must have been a difficult journey. All these remembrances along the Trail



of Death remind us of the price they paid in order to get us to where we are today," Barrett said.

"I think it's wonderful that our Potawatomi people are here today to recognize this monument and the beauty it represents, and what it represents to our people, we that have relatives that were on the Trail of Death. It is a great thing that we can come and look at this," Capps said.

Officials from Johnson County included JCPRD Executive Director Jeff Stewart, JCPRD District Board Chair Leslee Rivarola, Board of County Commissioners Chairman Mike Kelly and JCPRD Superintendent of Culture Susan Mong.

A historical panel accompanies the art, to explain the story behind the 1838 Trail of Death. The panel was created with the assistance of the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

Kelly affirmed Johnson County's commitment to sharing history, even if it is difficult.

"A lot of times that is not an easy conversation. A lot of times it's recognizing the pain, recognizing the injustice,

but also recognizing resilience. And to be intentional about that in today's world is sometimes hard. To be cast aside, to be threatened by removing funding for recognizing the diversity in our community, for being intentional," he said. "Making sure that the services we provide in the community we want to build is inclusive of everyone is something that is very meaningful and important and will continue to be protected here in Johnson County."

Meaningful collaboration

Fire Keepers Circle is made of painted wood, concrete and steel and evokes a blanket encircling the space within. Each layer of the blanket represents spiritual, ancestral and contemporary culture. Feathers crafted in metal include designs contributed by Tribal members. Yellowbird told the *Hownikan* in 2024 that she envisioned a place of reflection.

Tribal member Angela Montgomery was on the committee that evaluated 11 entries and helped select the winner. During the dedication ceremony, she gave the opening prayer in both *Bodéwadmimwen* and English. Two of her great-grandfathers were on the 1838 Trail of Death.

Montgomery had participated in the 2023 Trail caravan. Shortly after, officials with Johnson County asked her to join the planning committee.

"I think this is the most beautiful marker along the way and that's not all it's about. I love that it's here in this busy place and that people who aren't here to see this, who don't know anything about it will bump into it and be educated about something they didn't know," she said.

Montgomery said offering her prayer in *Bodéwadmimwen* was deeply meaningful.

"The first time I heard our language spoken, it gave me goosebumps. And it's just very moving, so I wanted to be able to do that and just put it in the air for other people to hear and for our ancestors to hear," she said.

Mong worked with the selection committee and helped Squadroni and Yellowbird coordinate the installation of the work. During the dedication, she received

a Pendleton blanket from Barrett and Capps and tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass from Boursaw.

"I'm overwhelmed at the friendship and the openness. I'm also grieving a little bit that Leah's not with us. But the highlight for me today was seeing families walk in and find the feather that they designed and how they reacted to seeing that and being a part of this piece," she said. "It's also been great to see how many park patrons came to this event because they were able to watch Aaron and his team do the install. Now they really feel connected and part of the story. The thousands of people that come here will connect to the story of the Potawatomi people."

Mong said the experience shows how building a respectful relationship is critical to completing a project like Fire Keepers Circle.

"It was in 2023 that we sat down together for the first time and there was a whole year of learning. I had the great honor of attending the Family Reunion (Festival) last summer and visiting the Cultural (Heritage) Center," she said. "All those things were important before the artwork was even discussed. That relationship building, that listening and understanding was critical. I think for those that don't take time to do that, they're missing out. The beauty has been the relationships."

Mong hopes this project will encourage other government entities to collaborate with local tribes.

"Maybe this will be the start of something that will happen, and I hope it is," she said. "Maybe this is something that can be emulated because I hope this inspires others. So, let's hope this is the beginning."

Fire Keepers Circle is located at 16050 Pflumm Rd., Olathe, Kansas. Visit Johnson County Arts and Heritage's website to learn more about the project. ♡



Wamego family history

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Cultural Heritage Center provides resources to keep the Tribe's history safe and accessible for generations to come. One key way the Nation does this is through the CHC's archives and video interviews. To highlight some of the archive's holdings, the *Hownikan* is featuring photographs and family history of every founding Citizen Potawatomi family. If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830.

Protecting the people

Wamego was among the Potawatomi who worked to protect his people as they experienced countless hardships during the removal period. The Potawatomi, part of the Three Fires Confederacy, had flourished in the Great Lakes region, which included parts of present-day Wisconsin, southern Michigan, northern Indiana and northern Illinois. Trade routes along the rivers and trails spanning from Indiana to Chicago allowed the Potawatomi, Ojibwe and Odawa to connect and communicate with each other.

In 1830, the U.S. Congress passed the Indian Removal Act and forced all tribes to relocate from their ancestral homelands to reservations west of the Mississippi River. The U.S. government believed this could stop the conflict between tribes and settlers squatting on tribal lands.

The 1833 Treaty of Chicago set the terms for the Potawatomi to be forced from the Great Lakes area. The Potawatomi were to receive more than 5,000,000 acres of land, cash payments and tracts of land west of the Mississippi River. Many Potawatomi believed the settlers, backed by the U.S. government, would continue to push into Native lands. They believed it was in the best interests of their people to find a peaceful solution and ensure their survival.

After the treaty was ratified in 1835, it wasn't until 1838 that tribes had to leave. This would lead to an unimaginable tragedy for the Potawatomi.

Trail of Death

In September of 1838, *Wamego* was among the Potawatomi who were tricked into meeting with the U.S. government. Instead of a meeting, Potawatomi leaders were shackled in the back of a wagon. Potawatomi homes and fields were burned to discourage them from returning.

From there, 859 Tribal members were forced to walk 660 miles from northern Indiana to eastern Kansas with little food, hardly any water and no shelter. Those on the journey also faced oppressive heat and illness. More than 40 people died before the survivors finally arrived in Kansas in November of 1838.



William Wamego

Adapting to the new lands in present-day Kansas was difficult. The lack of provisions promised by the federal government and the lack of many of the resources that had been familiar to the Woodland Potawatomi made adaptation challenging. However, some members of the Tribe established successful businesses and took advantage of the Oregon Trail that cut through the Potawatomi Reservation.

In Kansas, *Wamego* had a son named Joseph *Che-quas* Wamego. *Che-quas* was baptized on Jan. 19, 1858, at St. Marys, Kansas. Joseph *Che-quas* married Julia Battese in 1880. Their children were Harry, Willie, Catherine, Eli, Rose, Thomas, Agnes, Fannie and George.

A record within the CHC archives lists an 1887 allotment record for *Che-quas* and his wife, only noted as "a Kickapoo woman." Joseph appears on both the Kansas rolls and the CPN rolls after he accepted allotment in Indian Territory.

Life in Kansas

The children of *Che-quas* and Julia would go on to establish their own families in their adopted home of Kansas.

Harry Wamego married Charlotte Bruno. Their children were William Oliver, Genevieve Theresa (Smith), Raymond, Gladys Josephine (McCune) and Paul "Dutch" Aloysius.

Thomas Wamego married Angeline Pratt. Their children were Perry John, Mike, Lavina (Wichita) and Elizabeth Mae (Morris).

Fannie Anna Wamego married Charlie J. Pappan. Their daughter was Minnie Elizabeth (Murphy Alsip).

The town of Wamego, Kansas, later received its name in 1866 in honor of *Wamego* of the Potawatomi, whose pursuit of peace helped to ensure the survival of his people.

George and Harry were listed on the 1887 land allotment of the Prairie Band Potawatomi. A directory for the *Ship Shee* Cemetery in Jackson County, Kansas, lists Joseph, Julia and several family members buried there.

Joseph *Che-quas* walked on Dec. 10, 1927, in Kansas. Julia walked on Jan. 15, 1923, in Kansas.

Creating a new Nation

As the later generations of the Wamego family settled into life in Kansas, they helped establish a new and thriving community. But later, some would be offered the opportunity to change their lives and create a new Nation in then-Indian Territory.

During the 1860s, the Potawatomi were faced with a significant decision. Under pressure from settlers and railroad companies, the U.S. government offered citizenship and individual allotments to the Potawatomi in Kansas in order to obtain the land.

Wamego was a signatory on the Nov. 15, 1861, Treaty of the Kansas River Agency. The group that accepted U.S. citizenship and individual allotments in Indian

Territory became known as the Citizen Band. The group that preferred to live communally in Kansas became known as the Prairie Band. Some members of the Wamego family continued to live in Kansas while others made the move to Indian Territory.

Thomas and Angeline's son, Perry John, married Betty Jean Wong. Their children were Mary A. (Romero), Gregory Micco, Anthony T. and Sherrill L. (Toledo.)

Mike married Rita Tyre. Their son was Michael George.

Lavina married Atwood Wichita. Their children were Qwen (Pickering), Byron and Gordon "Howdy."

Elizabeth Mae married Allen Morris. Their children were Zack Thomas and Timothy Eli.

Minnie Murphy Alsip had a son named Francis Eugene Murphy and daughters named Phyllis Evelyn (McCreary) and Thelma Mae (Case).

Fannie Pappan had Nellie Josephine (Parker).

It was because *Wamego* continually worked for the safety of his Potawatomi people that his descendants endure today as one of the founding families of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Their contributions to life in Kansas and their willingness to confront the unknown in Indian Territory are a testament to their strength and courage.

If interested in assisting preservation efforts by providing copies of Citizen Potawatomi family photographs, documents and more, and to schedule family interviews, please contact the CHC at 405-878-5830. Schedule interviews online at portal.potawatomi.org. Learn more about the Family Reunion Festival at cpn.news/festival, and find research resources online at potawatomiheritage.com. 🐾

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Hill says service dogs can save veterans' lives

Muller and Spencer family member Scott Hill goes everywhere with his service dog, Nikki — to work, to movie theaters, to restaurants. Nikki provides him a sense of comfort in places he might not otherwise be comfortable.

Hill, who raised three boys in Oregon with his wife, was able to pair up with Nikki through an organization called Northwest Battle Buddies, which provides veterans with PTSD with service dogs. Now, he tries to spread the word to other veterans in the hopes they might also find a greater sense of independence through the use of a service dog.

How it all started

Though Hill was not diagnosed with PTSD until a couple of years ago, his story starts long before that.

In 1996, he and his wife had a toddler and he was serving as an F-15 avionics technician for the Air Force, mostly stationed out of Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. He was on his second deployment to Saudi Arabia when, on June 25, terrorists used a tanker truck as a bomb, which they set off near a fence line close to buildings that housed airmen.

The truck contained the equivalent of 20,000 pounds of TNT, Hill said, and when it exploded, it could be heard 20 miles away and left a crater 85 feet wide and 35 feet deep. The explosion killed 19 airmen and injured close to 500.

At the time the bomb went off, Hill was sleeping in his room a couple buildings behind the one that was hardest hit.

"I have the time 9:52 p.m. kind of seared in my brain, because that was the time I woke up and heard that explosion and looked at the clock, and that's what I remember seeing," he said.

He remembers someone yelling that they were being attacked and to get out of the building, and everyone gathering in the courtyard, where they started to administer first aid to those who were injured.

He also recalls a lot of uncertainty, including rumors of another bomb being found. Many of the details they did receive came from watching the news later that night. All that uncertainty, he said, caused a lot of anxiety.

"It was surreal to be so far away from home," and go through all of that, Hill said. "I was married and I had a toddler, my first little boy. And so, my heart, my mind were certainly on them, not sure what's happening, not sure if I'd get home to see him again."

In the days that followed, Hill helped load some of the injured onto medivacs to receive further care and assisted the FBI with tasks like sifting through sand for truck parts as evidence.

The day following the attack, an SUV backfired and the next thing Hill remembered was getting up off the ground. That reaction told him the attack had had a profound effect on him.

Once he returned home to the States, he noticed other changes.

"I did find myself experiencing high anxiety by loud noises," he said.

He said it was hard to be in dark spaces like theaters, or in crowds or restaurants. He always needed to sit where he could see the door, and he would often begin to question the intentions of the people around him.

"But when you are who you are, you don't really see that stuff. It just becomes normal life," he said. "I figured everybody's sort of like that. I never really thought of myself as being different."

Getting Nikki

In 2020, Hill said several things started happening that put increasing pressure on him. The Covid-19 pandemic was sweeping through the country. There was political unrest and demonstrations in the streets. The Pacific Northwest had fires raging in the area. And Hill was watching his mother battle kidney disease and cancer in the time leading up to her death.

"Things were rising up, and suddenly I couldn't really handle life," he said.

It was then his brother, a veteran working at a VA Hospital, suggested Hill seek help from the VA, which led Hill to counseling and a diagnosis of PTSD that stemmed from the attack in 1996.



Then, through another source, Hill heard about Northwest Battle Buddies, located about 150 miles from him in Washington. He loves dogs, but said he was hesitant to try to apply for a service dog.

"I just always felt like I want to reserve a resource like that for someone who's a lot worse off than me. I can at least go out into public. I know a lot of people can't even leave their house," he said.

However, he was encouraged not to think of it that way and to give it a try, so he applied, then went through the training program to learn to be a handler for his service dog.

His wing man in life

Hill has had Nikki now for two and a half years.

"They do say dog is a man's best friend. For me, though, that's reserved for my wife. She's my best friend," Hill said. "Nikki's my wing man in life, is what I like to say."

Aside from offering companionship, Nikki has specialized training and can go with Hill anywhere and everywhere, from Hill's job on campus at the University of Oregon, to airplanes, trains, and everywhere else.

If Hill is experiencing nightmares, Nikki will wake him to bring him back to the present. Nikki can provide pressure therapy to ground Hill whenever he needs it. He can act as a social barrier to give Hill space. If Hill begins to feel uneasy in a crowd, just knowing that Nikki's incredible senses of hearing and smell would pick up any trouble far in advance gives Hill comfort.

"I know that if he's OK, then I can be OK," he said.

While he was able to go out into public before, Nikki has provided him with peace of mind.

"I had learned to be OK in most situations, but it would be uncomfortable. He allows me to be comfortable," Hill said. "I'm comfortable in every scenario, where before I couldn't be ... He keeps me stable."

Northwest Battle Buddies

Hill said he now tells his story as a way to reframe a horrific event into something good by advocating for other veterans with PTSD to consider getting service dogs.

Northwest Battle Buddies works to supply veterans who struggle with PTSD with service dogs free of charge.

"By the time they're trained, these dogs are valued at over \$25,000 a piece, and it doesn't cost the veteran a dime," Hill said, adding that the organization will also work to supply veterans with another dog if their dog becomes too old to serve effectively or passes on.

"Northwest Battle Buddies is just amazing. They take the time to teach us how to handle our dogs, take them up escalators, elevators, be in crowds," he said.

Though they are located in Washington state, he said veterans from all over the country traveled to get service dogs through them, including one veteran who has moved to England but travels back for recertifications.

Hill added that service dogs are so much more than pets.

"They're life changing. I never thought I would be so dependent — lovingly dependent, happily dependent — on my dog to go through life with," he said.

Hill hopes any veterans struggling with things like leaving the house or suicide ideation will look into getting a service dog.

"These dogs are saving lives," he said. "One thing I've learned is that if you can't trust people, I want to encourage veterans to try trusting a dog. Because that's a great place to start."

Hill hopes that someday, the VA will cover service dogs for veterans the way they would any other medication or counseling. Until then, he tries to advocate and to get the word out.

He and Nikki also appear in the short film, "Nikki," produced by Sam Eckholm in partnership with Purina Dog Chow. It premiered at the New York Dog Film Festival last October and can be seen at cpn.news/nikki.

Learn more about Northwest Battle Buddies at northwestbattlebuddies.org.



Scott Hill received his service dog, Nikki, about two years ago through Northwest Battle Buddies.

Diedrick travels Trail of Death by bike

Tyler Diedrick has spent the past several years traveling around the world, primarily via bicycle. Last year, he decided to take on a journey for something bigger than himself. Over the course of several weeks, he took his bike and traveled the route of the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

Diedrick grew up on a dairy farm in a small town near Chilton, Wisconsin, before going to school and living in Milwaukee.

"After six years of being in Milwaukee, I felt like I needed some exploration," he said, adding that he has spent several years living in different states and traveling by bicycle as much as possible.

Most of his adventures, he said, are solo ones where he tries to push himself both physically and mentally.

"I felt like I kind of mastered that side of things, and when I was planning a tour for the end of last year, I decided I wanted to do something that was bigger than just me," Diedrick said.

He ultimately settled on the Potawatomi Trail of Death, the forced removal of the Potawatomi people from their lands in Indiana to Kansas, a journey of more than 600 miles.

Diedrick's distant great-grandmother was an Ojibwe woman from Manitoba named Genevieve who married his distant great-grandfather, Nicolas, an immigrant to the North American continent from France. Diedrick said he has always felt a strong connection to that part of his family history. It was this, as well as the link between the Ojibwe, Odawa, and the Potawatomi (via the Council of Three Fires) and the strong presence of Potawatomi people in Wisconsin, that drew him to the idea of biking the Trail of Death.

He said he was also motivated by a wish to raise awareness of Indigenous history in North America, dating back to an experience he had on a bus tour in Washington, D.C., years earlier.

"When we passed the National Museum of African American History and Culture, there was this huge eruption in the bus. The whole bus just cheered, and there was this major passion deeply rooted in history. I thought that was so cool," he said. "Just a few minutes later, as we passed the National Museum of the American Indian, the bus was completely silent. There was nothing. The vibe, the energy, the feeling of passion, gone. I just felt very weird about the whole experience."

Diedrick's journey, which he named "Trail of Tires: A Journey of the Potawatomi," began at his parents' farm in northeast Wisconsin, making his way down

to Twin Lakes, Indiana, near Plymouth. It was there that the Trail of Death started in 1838.

The second and main leg of the journey from Twin Lakes, Indiana, to Osawatomie, Kansas, took him 20 days to traverse by bicycle, a journey that takes around 9.5 hours by car. Once in Osawatomie, he spent another week traveling from Kansas to the current Tribal headquarters near Shawnee, Oklahoma. The three legs of the trip combined totaled nearly 1,900 miles. Shawnee, Diedrick said, was a good end point because it is where so many Potawatomi ultimately ended up.

"It felt like it kind of brought the journey full circle to end there," he said.

Overall, he said he averaged about 50 miles per day on his bike, depending on variables such as terrain, weather conditions, etc.

"This trip was pretty flat, which is nice for cycling, but with that came a lot of headwinds," he said.

Throughout the journey, he tried to raise awareness through social media posts and word of mouth, including among people who hosted him on his journey. Some were unaware of the Tribe's history and removal from Indiana, while others were very knowledgeable.

It was eye opening, he said, to travel past farmland in rural areas and to know that 150-200 years ago, it all looked very different — before the land was taken from Native peoples and cleared for the farms there today.

He said the little things during the journey were the most eye opening for him. For example, if the weather was bad, he could get a hotel room instead of sleeping in a tent. If he ran out of food, a grocery store was never more than a couple hours' ride away. If he was sick of riding on rough gravel roads, he could find the nearest paved one. For the Potawatomi in 1838, bad weather, food deprivation and rough trails were more than just challenges, many times resulting in deaths. Riding through the very lands that the Potawatomi were forced to walk so long ago, during the same time of year, put things into perspective for Diedrick.

"Here I am on a bike, essentially joy riding, and it was tough for me. I can't imagine what it was like to go through what they did," he said. "Having that perspective and following the trail in that way, it just humbles you."

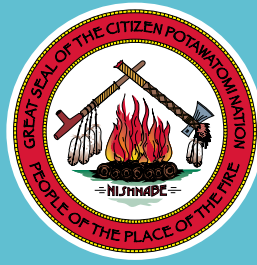
Following his journey from Indiana to Oklahoma, Diedrick took some time off to visit his family in Wisconsin before continuing his travels in Australia, Colombia, Italy and the United States. If you would like to follow along on Diedrick's future journeys, he is on Instagram and Facebook and posts regularly (@tylerdiedrick). 🔥

TRAIL OF TIRES

A Journey of the Potawatomi



149
HOURS
1,879
MILES



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOLARSHIPS



FALL 2023

1,232 full-time
\$2,404,385
 289 part-time
\$219,900
 1,521 total
\$2,624,285

SPRING 2024

1,132 full-time
\$2,205,000
 312 part-time
\$235,350
 1,444 total
\$2,440,350

SUMMER 2024

229 full-time
\$441,750
 332 part-time
\$704,600
 561 total
\$691,100

TOTAL

2,593 full-time
\$5,051,135
 933 part-time
\$704,600
 3,526 total
\$5,755,735

TOP 10

UNIVERSITIES

University of Oklahoma	89
Oklahoma State University	62
University of Central Oklahoma	58
Rose State College	44
Oklahoma City Community College	39
East Central University	33
Kansas State University	32
Seminole State College	32
University of Kansas	31
Western Governors University	26

STATES

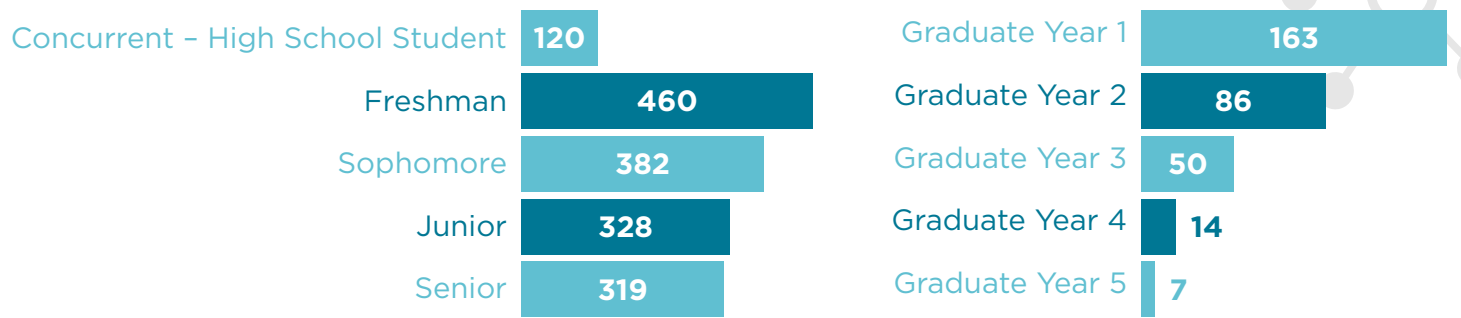
OK	677
TX	239
KS	201
CA	144
MO	58
WA	47
CO	45
AZ	41
AR	35
FL	31

MAJORS

Undecided	124
Nursing	114
Business Administration	80
Business	64
Computer Science	41
Biology	40
Psychology	37
Finance	36
Elementary Education	34
General Studies	30



GRADE LEVEL DISTRIBUTION



ADVISING

SERVICE TYPES

Scholarship Technical Assistance **17** | College Search Options **12**
Outside Scholarship Research **5** | Career Advising **3** | Degree Research **1**

39 TOTAL SESSIONS



VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

\$41,260 | **22** WSS clients awarded scholarships

TOP FIELDS OF STUDY

Beauty Cosmetology/Esthetician
Trades CDL Certification
Mechanical Aviation Maintenance



INTERNSHIPS

FALL 2023

2 Interns

SPRING 2024

6 Interns

SUMMER 2024

19 Interns

TOTAL

27 Interns



OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4 Virtual talking circles | **9** Potawatomi Leadership Program participants
23 Mdamen participants | **28** Students attended Potawatomi college courses
10 Students attended “Coming into the Circle” | **27** Tribal consultations with school districts
46 Students honored at 2024 Graduation Celebration | **64** Honor cords distributed
642 Students attended the 2024 Wzhitawen College Fair



STOLES

83 Sold | **\$4,150** benefitted miscellaneous education requests



\$141,250 IN RECOVERED FUNDS





2025 POTAWATOMI
GATHERING
HOSTED BY
GUN LAKE





AWATOMI ERING ED BY KE TRIBE



Artist shares creative process, remembrances

During the dedication ceremony for Fire Keepers Circle, Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members heard from Minnesota-based artist and architect Aaron Squadroni, who worked on the project.

In his remarks, Squadroni thanked the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for embracing the design and contributing to the artwork itself.

He also shared his thoughts on artist Leah Yellowbird (First Nations Algonquin-Métis and Anishinaabe), who also worked on Fire Keepers Circle. Yellowbird walked on in April 2025.

“She was very proud of this project and was really excited about doing the artwork. She will be greatly missed, but I do think her vibrant personality and her warm spirit live on through the people that she’s inspired and through her many artworks,” Squadroni told the crowd.

What made Fire Keepers Circle unique is that it was designed to make the viewers feel like they are part of the artwork, he said.

“Typically, when you see a sculpture, you walk around it, and you’re separate from it. We had this idea of artwork that surrounds you. The artwork feels like it’s missing something unless there’s people gathered there. Then we had the idea of a blanket that wraps the seating area and embraces the viewer as they come to look at it,” he said.

The feather designs, contributed by Tribal members, give voice to the ancestors because many of the designs came from an ancestor’s belt or moccasins. They gave the artwork integrity and strength of expression, he said. Squadroni and Yellowbird believed the contributions were a generous gift to all who visit now and in the future.

Creative process

Squadroni and Yellowbird worked on several projects together. Some of the most recent include the metal canoe sculpture “Riverwalk Canoe” in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, “Iron Range Wall Panels” in Virginia, Minnesota, with metal panels and a terrazzo floor design. They also created “Enduring Patterns Community Quilt,” a Covid memorial for Bloomington, Minnesota, that evoked a community quilt to pay tribute to those lost and to healthcare providers.

When working on a project, they often exchanged sketches and ideas back and forth. When they had settled on a creative direction, Squadroni would work on a three-dimensional computer model while Yellowbird refined the painting, selecting color and details.

“We’re trying to do something that’s specific to the place and the nature of the project each time and



so we end up working with a completely different set of ideas. The fun thing about doing sculptures is there’s more leeway to be experimental and try out new techniques and materials,” he said.

Special projects

Squadroni said designing memorial projects is different, particularly those like Fire Keepers Circle, which remembers the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

“You’re trying to show honor and appreciate people that made a sacrifice, or people that went through a difficult time, people who are no longer with us. There’s a strong element of remembrance and reflection that is important for communities to have so that they can look back on that and understand the history better,” he said. “The nice thing about public art is it can express values that don’t typically get expressed. That could be spiritual, it could be something about the history of a place. It could be what the community feels is important in relationships between people.”

The dedication ceremony was important, as it gave him an opportunity to finally meet with the descendants of those who survived and those who were lost on the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

"It was nice to interact with the members of the Tribe and some people gave me gifts and I really appreciated that," he said. "I don't think I've had another public art dedication that's had that much participation. I really wish Leah could have been there; I think she would have really enjoyed it."

Remembering Leah

Squadroni said he will remember Yellowbird's vibrant spirit, quirky sense of humor and her giving nature. A skilled beadwork artist, her paintings often included the smallest details, he said, the attention to detail she carried over into how she treated people.

"Her artwork is a very good representation of her spirit, and I think of her having this very warm, friendly, engaging personality. When I look at her paintings, they're very colorful and vibrant. There's a lot of detail, because she's using a pattern that's drawn from beading. She gave you her full attention and energy when she was with you," he said.

Squadroni said Yellowbird treated his 5-year-old son as a grandmother would treat a grandchild.



Jon Boursaw, Susan Mong, Aaron Squadroni and Jeff Stewart

"She really took on the role of taking him to movies and hanging out with him. Sometimes it was hard for us to get things done on our art project because she would be hanging out with him. They got along really well because she's really caring and giving," he said. "It was a sad loss for our community in Grand Rapids because she added a lot to the art community, the greater community and the Native community."

To view more of Squadroni's art, visit squadronistudio.com.

CPN CARE

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is thrilled to announce the launch of CPN Care - a new telehealth benefit offering for you and your family. CPN members now have 24/7 access to doctors, counselors and more via phone, video or our new mobile app - at NO cost to you!

This three-pronged service offers members general telemedicine, life assistance and pharmacy discount services for a whole-body care system:

- General Telemedicine - for doctors who can diagnose acute conditions and prescribe medication, successfully resolving over 90% of calls.
- Life Assistance - for on-demand access to specialists, counselors and social workers for help navigating life's challenges.
- Pharmacy Discount Services - 25-75% discounts for needed medications.



You MUST activate this benefit to get started.

Visit potawatomi.org/cpn-care or scan the QR code to activate today!



From the executives



John "Rocky" Barrett Tribal Chairman

Bozho, nikan, (Hello, my friend),

The past few weeks have been a time of reflection for me and for our Nation. We lost a dear friend and dedicated servant of Citizen Potawatomi Nation with the passing of longtime Election Committee Chair Gary Bourbonnais. At the same time, two of our most committed legislators, Gene Lambert and Bob Whistler, are retiring after many years of service to our people.

Gary was the steady hand behind our election process for decades. He believed that every Citizen Potawatomi member, no matter where they lived, deserved a fair and transparent election. His quiet dedication and sense of fairness helped build trust in our system of government. Gary ensured that every ballot was handled with care and every vote was counted properly. His work has been a cornerstone of our democracy, and our Nation is better for it.

For more than 35 years, Gary guided the Election Committee through every step of the process. He worked closely with staff and volunteers to certify results and announce outcomes at General Council meetings, making sure every election was carried out openly and with integrity. His calm, steady leadership set a standard for fairness that will continue to guide our elections for years to come.

Gene Lambert and Bob Whistler have been tireless advocates for their constituents. They each brought unique experience, knowledge and perspective to the Legislature, and they never shied away from doing the hard work required to represent members in their districts. They spent countless hours hosting district meetings, answering calls and emails, and making sure Citizen Potawatomi living far from headquarters still felt connected to their Tribe.

Gene has worked hard to keep members informed and engaged, always making sure that those living in her district knew they were a valued part of the Nation. Bob has been equally steadfast, focusing on communication and representation for his constituents. Both were committed to helping members understand their government and their opportunities as Citizen Potawatomi people.

It is easy to forget sometimes that good governance is built on consistent, often unglamorous work. Gary, Gene and Bob have each given years of their lives to ensure that our members have a voice and that our systems are fair, accountable and transparent. Their dedication has made our Nation stronger, more inclusive and more connected.

As I think about their service, I am reminded that leadership is not about titles or recognition. It is about showing up, doing the work and leaving things better than you found them. Gary did that. Gene and Bob have done that. And we are all better for it.

On behalf of Citizen Potawatomi Nation, I want to thank them for their contributions. I hope each of us takes their example to heart.

Migwetch (Thank you),

John "Rocky" Barrett | *Keweoge (He Leads Them Home)* | Tribal Chairman



Linda Capps Vice-Chairman

Bozho (Hello),

2025 Potawatomi Leadership Program

The presentations from the Potawatomi Leadership Program (PLP) were a delight during their final week at CPN. The audience gathered in the Cultural Heritage Long Room for the presentations on Wednesday, July 23. The students seemed relaxed despite the rather large crowd of legislators, CPN directors, friends, relatives and those from the CPN Education Department that worked with the students during their stay. Rachel Watson, CPN Education Director, and Margaret Zientek, dorm parent for the students, took part in the program.

The students' topics for the presentations

had been carefully chosen and methodically prepared to include visual slides that enhanced the demonstrations. In addition to a brochure of the day's events, a 2025 Potawatomi Leadership Program Final Portfolio was provided. This is a treasure to keep and contains a picture of each of the nine students, plus a summary of their 1) Elder Interview, 2) Project and 3) Reflection.

Each student wrote about the elder that they chose to interview. Please keep in mind that their choices may be subjects that are older than them, but not necessarily an elder that we usually think of in our Tribe. This proved to be very good because all their subjects, whether a few years older than the students

or a true Tribal elder, had a lot of deep, meaningful comments about the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Each year, the elder interviews are precious when you realize that the person being interviewed has imparted their belief and knowledge of the Tribe in such an important manner that it would be written in history. I believe that is a beautiful concept.



The second part of the final portfolio is the student's project, which is summarized and explains why the project was chosen for the team effort. The projects always are a pleasant surprise for the audience. Two or more students join to form their plan and then collectively work on the project. It seems that all the ideas that have ever been presented for the projects are brilliant. Kudos to our bright Potawatomi students.

The last part of the portfolio is the reflection. Some wrote about coming to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation for the first time. They told of what impressed them the most, what their apprehension was before they arrived, what their experiences were like, and what they will take back home with them. I loved that one student wrote, "After meeting everyone here you might think that kindness runs in their DNA." Many wrote about their first regalia. They were in awe of preparing their regalia for the Festival powwow. Another comment was, "I cannot begin to name all the people who have changed my perspective on life while I have been here."

A comment from a Sovereign Bank board member greatly influenced one student when he told him, "One of the most important things you are getting out of this program are the connections you've been making." This is certainly true because there are many networking opportunities for the students during the six-week period.

A California PLP student proclaimed, "Overall, this program was an experience of a lifetime!" I think that pretty much sums up what most of the students thought. My fervent wish for the students is that they will never forget the magic that the Sharp House granted. They will remember the laughter, the conversations, spending time together, learning about the culture/heritage, but most of all remembering the people that surrounded them with love and respect. I send much love to the 2025 PLP students. May the Creator bless you in all endeavors.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Linda Capps | *Segenakwe* (Black Bird Woman) | Vice-Chairman
Work: 405-275-3121 | Cell: 405-650-1238 | lcapps@potawatomi.org

From the legislature



Steve Livingston District 1

Bozho, (Hello),

I want to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to serve as your District 1 legislator. Thank you to everyone who participated in the election process, the kind words and encouragement along the way. Your voice matters, and it is an incredible honor to represent you.



Our family had a wonderful experience at the CPN Family Reunion Festival this past June. The kids loved the camel rides (yes, you read that right!), and even took a good-natured loss in the chess tournament courtesy of Tribal elder Monroe Jeffrey. We also lost to the PLP in hand games but had a great time trying! Lastly, I was honored to stand as a sponsor at a naming ceremony for Caitlyn Jones — a remarkable young woman from New York.

After the General Council meeting, I was overwhelmed by the kindness, generosity and emotional connection I felt from those who came up to congratulate me. People I hadn't yet met introduced themselves and their families and allowed me to introduce mine. Most important to me, though, was seeing the pride in my daughter's smile throughout the weekend. It was a powerful reminder that this role isn't just about policy. It's about people and the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with those I serve.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Anna Johnson, my fellow candidate in this past election. Anna ran a heartfelt campaign focused on connection, community and building relationships. I appreciated our conversations throughout the campaign season and admire her strength, kindness and passion. She is a positive force in our community, and I look forward to working alongside her.



Former District 1 Legislator Alan Melot with Steve Livingston's family Brooklyn, Laura and Caitlyn



Peggy Kinder with Steve Livingston's family

I also want to recognize and thank Alan Melot for the friendship we've built over the last five years and for his years of service representing District 1. Alan led with integrity, authenticity and humility, and his example is one I will look to as I begin this journey. He raised the bar for what it means to be a servant leader, and I'll continue to lean on his wisdom and support.

Following the election, I received heartfelt messages, hugs and gifts from friends. Thank you to Erin Dix, Anna Johnson, Charles Scott and my dear friend Peggy Kinder, who gifted my girls shawls and passed down a beaded bolo tie that had belonged to her late husband, Steve. It was an emotional gesture, one that reminded me how much we mean to each other as a community.

By the time this article is published, the Gathering of Potawatomi Nations, hosted by the Gun Lake Tribe, will have just taken place. I want to give a special shoutout to Peggy Kinder, who was honored as the head elder lady for the Saturday powwow — an honor that reflects her deep care and spirit. I also

want to recognize Lakota Hobia, a District 1 citizen, tribal historic preservation officer at Gun Lake, and a dear friend who served on the Gathering's organizing committee. District 1 is full of talented and generous people!

As I step into this role, I humbly ask for your prayers and support. I can't do this alone. I'm here to listen, to learn and to lead with heart and transparency.

I'll be maintaining a strong digital presence and encourage you to visit my website at cpndistrict1.com. I'll post regular updates and opportunities to connect. Please share your contact information so I can keep you in the loop. You can email me at steve.livingston@potawatomi.org, call or text me at 419-654-4183 or connect via Facebook at facebook.com/district1cpn.

Serving District 1 is the honor of a lifetime.

Steve Livingston | Legislator, District 1 | steve.livingston@potawatomi.org



Eva Marie Carney District 2

Bozho, nikanek (Hello, friends),

Upcoming District 2 Meetings

Please join me on Saturday, Oct. 4 for a meeting, museum and site tours, lunch, and tools and weapons demonstrations (there will be projectile range, archery and blow gun stations, for those interested) at the Etowah Mounds Indian Museum, Cartersville, Georgia. Etowah was home to several thousand Indigenous people from 1000 A.D. to 1550 A.D. The 54-acre site protects six earthen mounds, a plaza, village site, borrow pits and defensive ditch. Visitors can follow a nature trail along the Etowah River that highlights how the residents used native trees for food and medicine. Learn more at cpn.news/etowah.



I cannot wait to visit the Mounds with some of you! If you or your family member has a mobility impairment that might limit your full enjoyment of the grounds, you can reserve a free, high mobility all-terrain wheelchair, available to Mounds visitors at cpn.news/mobilitychair.

Postcard invitations will be mailed to folks within driving distance of the site; please RSVP and come even if you do not get a mailed postcard! I will need RSVPs to ensure we have the space and food needed. You will be my guest at the meeting (there is no cost to attendees).

I have also confirmed Saturday, Nov. 8 for our Annual District 2 Fall Feast, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will gather in the Social Hall, 6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22207. We will visit, work on a cultural craft together (this year we will return to a favorite – pucker-toe moccasin-making), share a family meal, and enjoy a giveaway. It is not too early to RSVP for one or both events!



Etowah Mounds weaponry

District 2 Meeting

<p>Saturday, <i>October 4, 2025</i> 10:30AM - 3PM</p>	<p><i>Etowah Indian Museum & Etowah Mounds</i> 813 Indian Mounds Road SE, Cartersville, GA 30120</p>
<p>Families welcome! Entry and lunch provided. Museum staff will provide tour & instruction at the projectile range, archery, and blow gun stations. (not mandatory)</p>	<p>Learn more about the Mounds at cpn.news/ETOWAH Reserve a free, high mobility all-terrain wheelchair, if needed, at gastateparks.org/Accessibility/TrackChairs</p>

RSVP by September 26
at evamariecarney@gmail.com or leave voicemail on 888-849-1484



Etowah Mounds

Thank You

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving as the District 2 Legislator alongside re-elected Chairman Rocky Barrett and District 4 Legislator Jon Boursaw and our other elected officials; please let me know how I can continue to support District 2 citizens.

During our Festival, the Legislature honored outgoing District 3 Legislator Bob Whistler with a traditional blanket. I missed that presentation, due to plane delays. Bob, you have my best wishes and thanks for your friendship and your energetic efforts on behalf of CPN citizens for almost two decades. *Migwetch!* Thanks also to District 5 Legislator Gene Lambert,

who retired earlier this year, for her long service to the Nation, and to former District 1 Legislator Alan Melot, for his work in support of our citizens. And welcome to District 1 Legislator Steve Livingston, who won his seat in a close vote against Anna Johnson. I look forward to working with everyone in the Legislative branch over the next four years.

CPN staff and volunteers: please accept my heartfelt thanks for working so hard to make the 2025 Family Reunion Festival a reality. This gathering means so much to many of us and could not happen without your exceptional efforts. *Igwien* (Thank you).

Opinion Piece and Forthcoming Book

A New York Times opinion piece (cpn.news/josephlee) by Joseph Lee, "In My Parents' Gift Shop, I Learned About Being Native," might resonate with you. It did with me. Here is an excerpt: "I had spent so much time thinking about what Indigenous identity is not that I had not spent enough time thinking about what it could be. We define Indigenous identity every day by how we live and are part of a community." I expect that the author's new book, "Nothing More of This Land: Community, Power, and the Search for Indigenous Identity," also will be a good, thought-provoking read.

Please Keep in Touch and Continue to Share Family News

Please keep in touch and reach out as you can and continue to share family news as you have it!

Migwetch (Thank you),

Eva Marie Carney | *Ojindiskwe* (Bluebird Woman) | ecarney@potawatomi.org | evamariecarney@gmail.com
evamariecarney.com | PO Box 5595 | Arlington, VA 22205 | Toll Free: 888-849-1484 (voicemail)



Bob Whistler District 3

Bozho ginwa (Hello everyone),

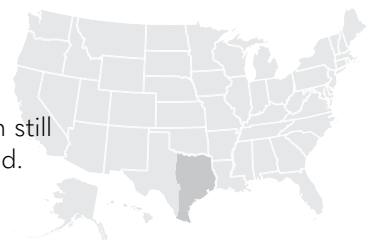
Given there was no candidate winning the election this year, I am still in office until a runoff is held and my replacement is announced.

VOTING

The election vote results were as follows: Brenda Trevino – 64; Brian Walker – 55; Jennifer Bertelsen – 44; Total – 163. Considering we have somewhere around 1,500 eligible voters, only about 1 in 9 voted for the representative for District 3.

Runoff absentee ballots are being created and a letter offering District 3 citizens the opportunity to vote for their choice of one of the two candidates. The run-off election date has been set for Tuesday, August 26, 2025! Please take the time to

vote for whom you will think best represent you. Your choices will be either Brenda Trevino or Brian Walker.



AGING

For men over the age of 40, and women over the age of 50 it is time to get into the routine of regular exercise. This should continue based upon your healthiness for the rest of your life. At those ages, our body is no longer fully replacing

the resources that allow us to have full, complete lives. Exercise can be simply parking your car a little further away from where you are going so that you must walk a little further. It may be briskly walking or running. Of course, going to the YMCA or a gym and getting a trainer is also an option. At the gym, you have the benefits of weights or machines.

At my 88 years, I try to go to the gym five days a week for an hour and a half. I spend roughly 30 to 45 minutes on a bicycle and read while I pedal. It is a simple multi-task but very rewarding. I recently ran across a book "Exercise: A Guide from the National Institute on Aging."

The guide covers the four basic areas that need attention as we age. It offers activities on improving your endurance and starting with as little as five minutes of an activity that you may find challenging, with a final goal of reaching a total of at least 30 minutes of endurance exercise most days of the week. Walking may be just the thing for this area and it would help to progress to other examples, like golf without the use of a cart.

The next area is to improve your strength with exercises in this area on all groups at least twice a week. Keep in mind that repetition is very important and it is not how much you can lift, but how many times. It is nice to say I can lift or push 200 pounds, but how many times? If only once or twice, you gain more by lifting two pounds or 20 pounds of weight for three sets of 15.

The next two most important areas are balancing and then stretching. Balancing is by far one of the first things that gives us trouble as we age and needs to be addressed. This manual will offer several exercises to work on each of these two.

You may secure a copy of this book I'm reading by calling 800-222-2225. It is their publication number NIH 99-4258.

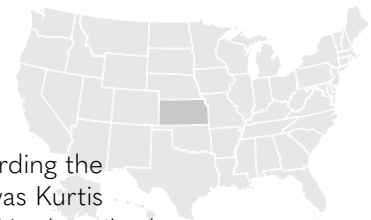
In closing, I have been honored to serve as a legislator for the last 17 years.

Nagech (Later),

Bob Whistler | Bmashi (He Soars) | redmaniam@yahoo.com | 817-229-6271



Jon Boursaw District 4 Employment Services for Native American Veterans available in Kansas



I recently had a conversation with a visitor in my Topeka office regarding the availability of veteran employment services in Kansas. The visitor was Kurtis Goombi of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and a U.S. Navy veteran. He described how their team of veteran employment specialists offer their insight and expertise on jobs, education opportunities, veterans rights and benefits, and the full range of services available through the KANSASWORKS Workforce Centers, including:

- One-on-one job search assistance
- Resume and cover letter review
- Referral to employment opportunities
- Referral to veteran's programs

He also brought up a topic that I was not fully aware of, which he described as the Veterans' Priority. In accordance with the "Jobs for Veterans Act," veterans in Kansas receive priority access to employment and training sources, ensuring they are referred to job openings, training programs and related resources ahead of non-veterans. Kurtis also mentioned that KANSASWORKS offers services to Native American Veterans, which include those with a service-connected disability, those who have significant barriers to employment, and those Native American veterans who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or formerly incarcerated. Kurtis can be reached at kurtis.goombi@ks.gov. The Topeka Workforce Center is located at 1420 SW Topeka Blvd, 785-235-5627.

Upcoming CPN Elders' Potlucks

Dates for the Elder Potlucks held in Rossville at noon are:

September 12 Ham & Cheese Sliders RSVP by the 9th

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Please RSVP to Tracy at 785-584-6171.

In Case You Missed it

Kansas hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are now FREE. Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, upon submission of satisfactory proof thereof, will issue free licenses to hunt, fish and trap to any person residing in the state who is enrolled as an American Indian on a tribal membership roll which is federally recognized by the United States Department of Interior. Applicants must provide acceptable proof of tribal enrollment number in the form of a legal document issued by the tribal office certifying the named person's enrollment number. (Added: The CPN Enrollment Card should suffice.) See my article in last month's issue of the *Hownikan* for details.

Contact Information

If you are not receiving emails from me, it is because I do not have your current email address or what I have is incorrect. All you need to do is email me your email address.

Megwetch (Thank you),

Jon Boursaw | Wetase Mkoh (Brave Bear) | jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org | 785-608-1982
2007 SW Gage Blvd. | Topeka, KS 66604 | Office Hours: Tuesday 9-11 a.m. | Thursdays 3-5 p.m. | Other times as requested

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Rande K. Payne District 6

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

Traveling halfway across the country with three grandsons, two sisters and a nephew in a minivan is quite an experience, especially when the destination is the Family Reunion Festival. The journey to and from was mostly enjoyable with an occasional "Are we there yet?" from one of the three boys in the back seat.

A huge tip of the hat to everyone involved in making Festival fun for everyone. Mother Nature did her part on Friday afternoon with a torrential downpour threatening to cancel the hand games competition. But the rain gods showed mercy and it stopped raining just in time for the hand games to go on as scheduled.

Congratulations to Chairman Barrett on his reelection to the Tribal chairmanship. Congratulations to Steve Livingston on his successful effort to represent District 1. Representative Eva Marie Carney ran unopposed in District 2. The open seat in District 3 will be decided in a runoff election, as none of the three candidates captured 50 percent of the vote. Representative Robert Whistler did not seek reelection but will continue to represent District 3 until results of the runoff election are in. Brenda Trevino and Brian Walker will face each other in the runoff, as they had the highest number of votes of the three candidates. Representative Jon Boursaw ran unopposed in District 4. The annual budget passed. Supreme Court Justice Jane Braugh was confirmed. Once again, voter turnout was lackluster to say the least. Of the roughly 28,000 eligible voters, 1,745 participated in the election.



Taylor Arvidson, Rande Payne, Mhystie Anderson and Dustin Whitlow

It was my great honor to be asked to name three Tribal members at this year's Festival. On Saturday morning, we held the naming ceremony for Mhystie Anderson (*Wadase De Kwe*) from Kyle, Texas; Dustin Whitlow (*Gage Gabo*) from Litchfield Park, Arizona; and Taylor Arvidson (*Mokek Kwe*) from Dripping Springs, Texas. All are Vieux family descendants. The ringleader of this bunch, I would say, is former District 6 Tribal member Karen Gallagher (*Keno Ma Wat*), who now resides in Texas. The official coordinator who helped put it all together is Terri Hernandez (*Wese Mnedo*). Karen and Terri also sponsored all three of their family members. I am grateful for our firekeeper, Tim Zientek, who prepared the prayer circle and managed to get a fire going with wood that was drenched the day before. A heartfelt thank you (*Igwien*) to Language Director Justin Neely for getting up early, after drumming at the hand games Friday night, to sing the Potawatomi Morning Song for us. Such a beautiful start to our ceremony. We even had a special appearance by Vice-Chairman Linda Capps who brought the eagle feathers for our ceremony and took time to visit for a while. Linda named Karen and Terri at Festival in 2017.

The Sunday church service is always a special treat. Representative David Barrett's wife Connie sang How Great Thou Art. Max Temple, who works at the Corner Store, played the piano and sang "In the Garden". Both were amazing! Julie Floyd did the Devotional. Julie works in Accounts Payable and serves on the Election Committee.

Condolences to the family of Elections Committee Chairman Gary Bourbonnais, who walked on July 9. Gary has served as chairman of our Elections Committee since its formation in 1985.

Invitations will be going out soon for our District 6 & 7 Heritage Festival on Saturday, Nov. 8. I hope you can attend!

Wisdom from the Word: "I will strengthen the weary and renew those who are weak." Jeremiah 31:25

Migwetch, jagenagenan, nagetch (Thank you, all my relations, later),

Rande K. Payne | *Mnedo Gabo* | rande.payne@potawatomi.org | 31150 Road 180 | Visalia, CA 93292-9585 | 559-999-5411



Mark Johnson District 7

Bozho nikanek (Hello friends),

Another Family Reunion Festival has come and gone in Shawnee, Oklahoma for 2025. If you were unable to attend this event this year, it is never too early to start planning for next year, particularly if your family falls into the Honored Families for 2026, which are currently scheduled to be the following: Acton, Bergeron, Bruno, Curley, Delonais, Greemore and Slavin families. The Festival dates will be June 26 – 28, 2026. I know it is not possible for everyone to attend the district meetings and the Family Festival in Shawnee. Hopefully you can make the trip sometime; the memories will last a lifetime. Rande Payne and I will also be co-hosting a joint district gathering in central California on Oct. 25. It is always great to get together and enjoy our heritage. Watch your mail for an invitation postcard.

Many new additions to our Tribal grounds were on full display for those in attendance at this year's Festival. Some of the highlights were the grand opening of the new FireLake Casino and FireLake Hotel, the new 126-room hotel situated within easy walking distance of our Tribal headquarters and Festival Grounds. Finishing touches are also going into the expanded ball fields, which are hosting teams and tournaments virtually year-round. I know that a few of our members are concerned about the Tribe's emphasis on the growth of our Tribal enterprises, and they think that there is not enough attention paid to culture and heritage. I, for one, think that our Tribe does an outstanding job at both. Businesses are vital to the growth and survival of our Tribal Nation and the services that we provide our members. As our Tribal enrollment approaches 40,000 members, successful businesses are vital in allowing our Tribe to meet our financial obligations — from scholarships and health aids to down payment assistance for those wishing to buy their first home.

I also wanted to mention that for our elders in the district who are lower income and looking for more affordable housing, there are two or three elder housing units available to rent in our Rossville, Kansas, complex. Contact our Housing Department for more information: cpn.news/housing.

Once again, I would like to say what an honor it is to serve you as your District 7 Legislator. As always, give me a call and I will be happy to work with you on any questions you may have or provide you with additional information you may need to access Tribal benefits that are available to you. Please also take the time to give me a call or send me an email with your contact information so that I can keep you informed of the happenings within the Nation and district.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Mark Johnson | *Wisk Mtek* (Strong as a Tree) | 559-351-0078 | mark.johnson@potawatomi.org



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Dave Carney District 8

Bozho, jayek (Hello, everyone),

It was great seeing so many District 8 families in June at the Family Reunion Festival. Some were old friends like Joe Clark from Montana and Ginger Blackmon of Alaska, and others were new friends, like Mike Abella and Darin Abella from Washington state.

With all of the representation for our district, I got a little overly optimistic about the Friday night hand games competition. My plan was to have not one but two District 8 teams. Unfortunately, a summer storm came through two hours before the games. The skies became dark, and massive rain and hail scared the majority of our members into staying in that night. At the start of the games, I had only Joe Clark wanting to play, and he was drafted onto a District 1 team. The winner of the entire competition was the Potawatomi Leadership Program participants.

The Festival was well attended and had many highlights, including the openings of the new FireLake Hotel and the new FireLake Casino. The hotel is a great addition to the Nation's offerings that make this a great travel destination. It is modestly priced, well-appointed and will accommodate families using the ball fields, bowling center and golf course. The casino replaces the old casino and is across the street. This was absolutely needed as the old casino was functionally obsolete. It had served the Nation as a bowling center, bingo hall and a productive casino for many years.

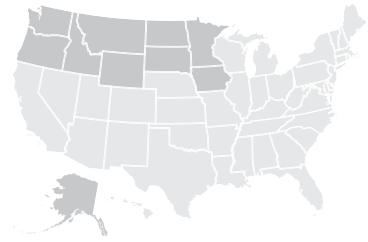
Of the memorable events that I was involved in over the weekend, I had the opportunity to attend both a Native American ceremony and a Christian service Sunday morning. My sister, Eva Marie (representative for District 2), had asked me to be the fire keeper at a family Naming ceremony at one of the prayer circles near the Sharp House. The heat and humidity made getting the fire going a little challenging, but eventually, I was successful and there was an emotional and heartfelt private ceremony.

A few hours later, there was a church service at the Mission Church coordinated by Ms. Capps. The venue is an old white church near the Cultural Heritage Center with knotty pine paneling that was erected by Quakers when they were ministering to Native Americans on our reservation land. Good messages were enhanced by some beautiful singing by Connie Barrett, wife of Oklahoma Legislator Dave Barrett. She performed "How Great Thou Art."

Our annual Fall Feast will be Oct. 11 at the Duwamish Longhouse in Seattle, and as of placing the order this morning, frybread tacos from Off the Reservation are on the menu.

As always, it is my pleasure to serve as your legislator,

Dave Carney | *Kagashgi* (Raven) | dcarney@potawatomi.org | 360-259-4027



Joe Clark plays Hand Games



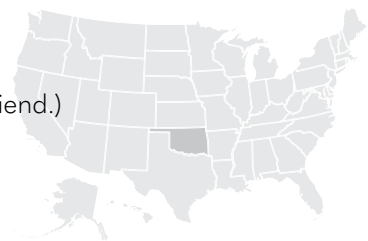
Paul Wesselhöft District 9

Bozho, nikan (Hello, friend),

(This article is for all my Potawatomi friends who have lost a furry friend.)

When Comes That Time

When comes that time
I'll be there.
It's near unnatural:
Man should not love
To such deep depth.
When comes that time
I'll be there.
Not outside the room,
Nor the lobby.
I'll be nowhere but there.



How could I abandon my post
When you need me the most?
When your stricken, sicken body
Is slipping away,
There I'll be, you'll see.
I'll not leave you with a stranger
In a strange room.
Together, you and me.
I fear the years have taken their toll.
I promise your pain will wane,
Nor will it be anymore.
When you can't be made whole,
I'll be there.
When comes that time

Our eyes will peer into each other's soul.
When the doctor takes your life,
I'll be there, my friend.
You are mine.
In your last breath,
I'm here — to the end.
I'm here for you.
My arms to comfort you
As you lick me one last time.

Migwetch (Thank you),

Paul Wesselhöft | Naganit (Leader)
reppaul@gmail.com | pwesselhoft@potawatomi.org

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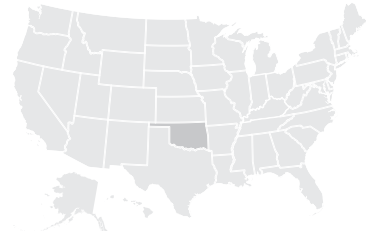
COLOR RUN
FUN
Domestic Violence Awareness Event
2025
OCTOBER 11th @ 9 am
1K RUN & WALK
HOUSE OF HOPE

The poster features a vibrant, colorful background with splashes of paint in shades of blue, yellow, pink, and green. In the background, a group of people are running and cheering, with some wearing headbands and having paint on their faces. The text is overlaid on this background in various fonts and colors. The "HOUSE OF HOPE" logo is a circular emblem with a house-like shape on top and several vertical lines below, representing people.



Andrew Walters District 11

Bozho (Hello),



Naming is an important part of our culture. Our tradition says that *Mamogosnan* (aka God) can only see the top of your head when He looks down. Oh, He can hear your prayers. And He knows you're there, cause you're Potawatomi and He likes us. But after you're named, He can see your face.

I find naming enjoyable, from the whole process that leads up to it to the time spent trying to find just the right name that fits the person's personality. It's delightful. I have named a few folks, and at this last Family Reunion Festival I had the chance to name a friend of mine's son, Jake Morrell. Now, Jake came over from Hawaii last year with his beautiful, elegant wife, Elaine, and his smart, good-looking son, Ethan. I became acquainted with Jake and his family through his dad, Ed. All I can tell you about Ed is ... he's a character. He's retired, lives in Oahu and has the time to give me critical guidance on my *Hownikan* articles. I guess you could say we have kind of an Ed-itorial relationship (that's a joke, son). We have, over the years, become friends and have hosted his family at our house — a great bunch of people. I'm just hoping Ed will stop falling off of walls and can come to Shawnee next year. If he does, I'm gonna name him Falling Rocks and get him one of those road signs ya see in the mountains as a gift.

Last year, Jake gave me tobacco and asked me to name him at this year's Festival. I have to tell ya, it was tough. Jake's unique and multi-faceted. The one thing I did boil it down to was that he really liked to travel, and that seemed to be a trait that identified him. Now, Jake is both a Higbee and a Bertrand, and has family spread all over God's green earth. He came down and visited all the folks before he got to Shawnee. Long story short, I named him *Bbagwinwenose* (He Wanders). Seemed appropriate and Jake loved it. And that made it even better for me.

The only other thing that I might enjoy more than naming is when we get to vote on Tribal memberships. We have folks from all over apply, some with names I can't pronounce. After Tribal Rolls certifies them, we get to vote. When D. Wayne Trousdale reads each of their names into the record, we get to see the district they are from and a date of birth. I have to tell you, I smile when I see the children's applications, some as young as three months old. What a gift our ancestors left for us: Tribal membership and the naming tradition.

So, I would like to invite all those folks who haven't applied for citizenship for themselves and/or their children to do so. And for any of y'all that haven't been named and wish to be, we have several routes you can go. One is to contact your district representative and ask for a naming. You'll probably receive a questionnaire to fill out, and don't forget to send tobacco! The other is that any of y'all that are named can name others. We kind of like to see elders name younger folks. And if you do, remember that cute little boy you named Happy Bunny might grow up to be a 280-pound wide receiver with tattoos. Give a name that looks to the future.

Anyway, Cora says "Hi!" Y'all take care of yourselves and your family. We're here for you if ya need us.

Bami pi (Until later),

Andrew Walters | andrew.walters@potawatomi.org | nibwemko@gmail.com

FALL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE
SEPT 15 AT 5PM CT
 apply at portal.potawatomi.org

Walking On

David H. Guinn Sr.
Peltier Family



David Harry Guinn Sr. was born March 23, 1934, in St. Louis, Oklahoma, to Curtis Russell "Russ" Guinn and Laura Evelyn Mars Guinn, and he walked on May 31, 2025. Due to difficult circumstances and the deaths of a brother, Lloyd Guinn, and sister, Mary Guinn, in infancy, his family followed the Dust Bowl trail to California before the war. He graduated from Nordhoff High School in 1953 and worked during the summers

as a muleskinner for the National Forest Service. He met the love of his life, Shirley Ann Bangs, in Ojai, California. They eloped to Las Vegas and were married Dec. 4, 1955.

He was drafted into the Army in 1956. David went to Fort Ord for basic training and AIT, becoming a construction engineer. He was sent to South Korea following his training. In 1969, they moved to Washington state and raised five kids: David Jr., Candace, Linda, Kenneth and James. They, in turn, raised many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom brought David and Shirley great joy.

David worked for 37 years as a master plumber and pipefitter. He worked on the Alaska Pipeline and helped build refinery modules that were shipped from the Puget Sound to Alaska. David loved hunting and fishing. He also had several hobbies, which he enjoyed immensely: beekeeping, sourdough baking and wine making. David was a pretty good carpenter, making wood furniture for his parents and his own family.

David was preceded in death by Shirley, his wife of 53 years, his older sister, Elwanda Jaqueline Jackson, and younger brother, Russell Gordon Guinn.

Dora Ann McAlister
Crumbo Family



Dora Ann McAlister, 95, left this life on June 8, 2025, in Magalia, California. She is survived by her husband, Robert, and their four children, Linda Merrill, Ray McAlister (Linda), Laura Dvorak and Lisa *Mishkekejewenkwe* Kewish (Josh), as well as grandchildren Jennifer *Msko-Pneshi Kwe* Mocanu (Jason) and Brian *Nibomko* McAlister (Lorena). Their great-grandchildren are Spencer and Samuel McAlister.

Dora and Robert, each delivered by the same doctor in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, met in southern California, where they began dating. She was 15 and a student. He was 19 and in the Navy. "He brought me a corsage each time he came to court, and we mostly hung out at the local skating rink. Neither one of us knew how to skate but we gave it the old college try," she reminisced. "I had to nap during study hall at school to keep up with the night life, eating out and going to movies." After dating for a year, Robert proposed to Dora on the beach. In 1946 they married, remaining united 79 years.

In 1990, Dora and Robert relocated from southern to northern California. Dora looked for a social outlet in Magalia. An accomplished seamstress, she joined a club to learn the intricacies of quilting. Her creations — works of art — won ribbons in exhibitions for their colorful palette and imaginative patterns. Next, she began designing and sewing wearable art, including jackets and dresses. Awards accrued for these treasures.

Dora was the truest treasure. She drew strength from the natural world: hearing a mourning dove's coo, watching a mother mule deer and fawn browse the backyard, tending a landscape of fragrant lavender and pines. She was grounded by an unshakeable faith in God. Our family is both blessed by and grateful for her earthly time shared with us.

Jodie Gayle (Anderson) Kennedy Boucher
Trombley/Lafromboise Family



Jodie Gayle (Anderson) Kennedy Boucher was born in the hospital in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, to Kenneth and Gayle Anderson. She married Alan Kennedy, and they had one son, Paul Alan Kennedy. Jodie worked as a cleaner, cleaning new homes for sale after they had just been built.

On May 18, 1992, Jodie married Jerry Boucher in a ceremony in Pauls Valley,

Oklahoma, and she became a stepmother to Jerry Don Boucher, Shelly Renee Blish and Terry Wade Boucher.

Jodie attended reserve officer police school and worked serving the citizens of Wynnewood beside her husband for many years. After retirement, Jodie loved to do bead and craft work, as well as make costume jewelry.

Jodie, a Potawatomi and Choctaw Native American, passed away from this life with her sister Terry Noel at her side in Ada at the Chickasaw Nation Hospital.

She and her husband attended Eastern Gate Baptist Church in Wynnewood and were members of Beaty Baptist Church of Pauls Valley.

Jodie had many friends in Garvin and Oklahoma counties, and she is now with her Lord and Savior and no longer has any pain and is smiling down on us waiting to see us again.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Boucher; son, Paul and wife Anaid Kennedy of Pauls Valley; grandchildren, Ramon and Mya Kennedy; and sister, Terry and husband Roger of Oklahoma City. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

.....

Johnny Vin Anderson
Anderson Family



Johnny Vin Anderson, age 97, crossed the Jordan River into the arms of his loving Savior Jesus Christ, on Saturday, June 7, 2025. Johnny was born on June 16, 1927, to Vin Anderson and Wilma Anderson (Farino) in Choctaw, Oklahoma, where he lived until graduating from high school. With a love for his country and his father's permission, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945 at the age of 17 and was assigned to the U.S.S. Siboney. As

part of the Magic Carpet Operation, he was honored to serve by bringing home sailors, marines and soldiers from the Pacific Islands and was honorably discharged in 1946. Johnny was a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and was awarded a blanket for being the wisest member of the Tribe for the last several years of his life.

Johnny met the love of his life, Jo Laverne Ellis, while working at Liberty National Bank in Oklahoma City. They were married on Sept. 3, 1949, and were blessed with 75 years of marriage. Johnny was reunited with Jo 26 days after her passing.

They set a great example of a Christian marriage for future generations. Johnny and Jo enjoyed seeing the world, traveling to 50 states, 32 countries and several continents.

Johnny enjoyed a career in banking that lasted for more than 78 years, beginning with 27 years at Liberty National Bank. With his first job as a messenger, he progressed throughout the Liberty organization and ultimately was promoted to senior vice president of operations. He left Liberty in 1970 to become president of First National Bank in El Reno, Oklahoma, and then became president, CEO and one of the founding members of American Heritage Bank in El Reno. In 1972, he purchased Farmers & Merchants Bank (now F&M Bank) in Crescent, Oklahoma, where he served as president and ultimately chairman emeritus. Through his thoughtful leadership and support of children and grandchildren, he guided the

bank through numerous challenges and expanded the bank to nine locations throughout northern Oklahoma and the greater Oklahoma City area. He was actively involved in various banking organizations and was inducted into the Oklahoma Bankers Hall of Fame in 2019.

Johnny was honored to be ordained as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Crescent. His favorite Bible verse was John 3:16. With unwavering faith, dependence on God's grace and forgiveness, Johnny lived his life as a loving, humble servant of God. He was a devoted husband, father and papaw. At family gatherings, he often prayed for his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be saved and know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Johnny had a real sense of humor. He loved giving funny nicknames to his family and friends as well as playing jokes. Johnny loved working in his yard and garden. Johnny was very humble and a man of great integrity. Johnny will be greatly missed by those who knew him, but they can take great comfort in knowing they will see him again in Heaven.

Johnny was preceded in death by his wife, Jo Laverne; parents, Vin and Wilma; and brother, Tommy. Johnny is survived by his children, Terry Anderson (Annie), Patti Rains (Tim), John Tom Anderson (Brenda), Barry Anderson (Wendy); nine grandchildren and spouses; 19 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held at First Baptist Church, Crescent, on June 16, on what would have been his 98th birthday. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Crescent Public School Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 295, Crescent, OK.

.....

Travis Alexander Scott
Weldfelt/Ogee Family



Travis Alexander Scott was born on Nov. 15, 1971, in Dallas, Texas, and passed on to eternity at age 53 on Feb. 7, 2025, at his home in Sanger, Texas. He faced his diagnosis of stage four pancreatic cancer with incredible courage, resolve and even a sense of humor at times. Travis found comfort in knowing that many people were praying for him.

He is survived by his parents, Robert and Marlyn Scott; brother, Jason Scott and wife, Nikki; and nieces and nephews, Morgan, Briana, Mallory, Matt, Ran and Levi. He leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins and a large group of friends. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Joe and Pearl Scott, Harvine Bovier, Vern and Elma Bovier; and by a cousin, Troy Stearman.

Travis graduated from Coppell High School in June 1990. He then entered the Marine Corps, attending basic training at MCRD in San Diego, California, and completing the course in F/A 18 hydraulics maintenance and repair in

Millington, Tennessee. After the Marine Corps, Travis held a variety of jobs that required travel around the United States.

Travis was very proud of his Native American roots in the Ogee family and his membership in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Over his lifetime, Travis enjoyed cycling, fishing, hunting, disc golf and gaming with a close group of friends. He loved to draw and write poetry and maintained an intellectual curiosity that led one friend to nickname him "The Professor." With a big heart for children, cats and dogs, he had a keen sense of humor that led to co-developing a Facebook profile for an oven-mitt puppet.

Travis was hired as project manager for Rockstar Welding in Pilot Point, Texas, less than a year before his passing. He enjoyed applying his skills acquired during his work history as well as camaraderie with his coworkers. As his health declined, the owners responded with exceptional flexibility, extending radical grace and generosity up to and beyond his passing.

Travis' celebration of life was held May 17, 2025, at Rockpoint Church Central Campus in Flower Mound, Texas.

Andrew John Rogers
Lewis/Bergeron Family



Andrew "Andy" John Rogers, age 85, passed away on Saturday, June 14, 2025. He was born July 3, 1939, to James W. Rogers and Elizabeth (Lewis) Rogers in Great Bend, Kansas.

Andrew was a graduate of Lyons High School and Machinist Trade School, and a member of Kansas Travelers Camping Club. He loved photography and woodworking and was a loyal Cowboys fan, win or loss.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Elizabeth Rogers; his brother, Donald Rogers; his daughter, Theresa Rogers; and his grandson, John Rogers.

Andrew is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marjorie A. Rogers; son, Michael J. Rogers; daughter, Amy S. (Marcos) Diaz; grandsons, Jeremy W. Davis, James L. Rogers and Adam C. Davis; 16 great-grandchildren; as well as nieces, nephews, and many dear friends.

Graveside service was held Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at Lakeview Cemetery. Burial followed.

A Celebration of Life service for Andrew was held on Saturday, July 19, 2025, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1062 E. Chet Smith Avenue, Derby, Kansas.

Memorial contributions in Andrew's memory can be made to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and/or charity of your choice.

Please send flowers to St. Andrew's Church, as Lakeview Funeral Home will not be involved in the services at the church.

Freda Barrington

Beaubien/Lafromboise Family



Freda Barrington passed peacefully in her sleep at Raider Ranch in Lubbock, Texas, with her loving husband, C.D. by her side holding her hand. She wanted all of her dear friends and family to know she was at peace.

Freda Verne Barrington was born to Jules Verne Wilder and Hazel Lou Sampson Wilder in Duncan, Oklahoma, on Oct. 22, 1934. Freda enjoyed school activities and clubs, singing and playing the piano. Freda moved to San Antonio and married C.D. Barrington on Feb. 22, 1969. She was first to volunteer as homeroom mother, Girl Scout leader, and more. She took great pride in following her grandchildren's sports throughout Texas and California. Freda and C.D. were actively involved at Laurel Heights Methodist Church where Freda was the first woman to hold the position of chairperson for the Church Council, and the first female Administrative Board chair. They later became leaders at University Methodist Church organizing the archives, and were active in Sunday school and Bible studies. Their hearts for church service continued at Raider Ranch where they participated in prayer groups, Bible studies, and church services. Freda supported C.D. when he lost his vision by helping him form the Low Vision Support Group.

Freda is survived by her husband, C.D.; daughter, Sarah An-cell and Dale of Lubbock, Texas; son, Perry Eichor and Ingrid of Chino Hills, California; grandchildren, and great-grand-daughters. Freda is preceded by her father, mother and sister.

We are grateful that this beautiful servant of the Lord is now in Heaven. Please remember her servant's heart, and her love and care for others. She lived a blessed life and was grateful for all those she knew and called friend. She was laid to rest in Ralls, Texas.

The **CPN Burial Assistance Fund** is available to all enrolled CPN members. Notify Tribal Rolls at tribalrolls@potawatomi.org or 405-878-5835 of member's passing to receive up to \$2,000 aid.

Submit obituaries to hownikan@potawatomi.org with:

- Word document with 300 words or less
- High resolution image (no photos of printed photos)

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